HEATH HOUSE,

ANDOVER,

February 26th, 1906.

To

THE MAYOR AND CORPORATION OF THE BOROUGH OF ANDOVER.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my report for the year 1905.

Population.

The population at the last Census was 6,500, and is estimated at the present time to be 6,750; and your District covers an area of 8,385 acres.

Birth Rate.

During the year 168 Births were registered: this gives a Birth Rate of 24·8 per 1000, a decrease of 1·7 on that of last year; the average for the previous ten years being 25·6 per 1000.

Death Rate.

The total number of Deaths registered in the district was 96. This includes 11 Deaths of non-residents registered as occurring in public institutions in the district (Union Workhouse and Andover Cottage Hospital), so that excluding these the correct number of Deaths was 85. This gives a Death Rate of 12·5 per 1000, ·3 above that of last year and 2·8 below the average of the previous ten years. Seven of the above deaths were in persons under one year of age, whilst 36 were 65 and upwards. Of these 27 were above 70 years of age, and their average age at death was 78·8. The chief causes of death were:—

Bronchitis and Pneumonia	7
Heart Disease...	13
Cancer	6
Phthisis and Tubercular Diseases	10
Accident	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	1
Suicides	2

Zymotic Death Rate.

Measles caused 6 deaths, the Death Rate being 0·8 per 1000.

Infant Mortality.

During the year 7 infants under 1 year of age died, a decrease of 8 from the previous year; this gives a mortality of 41·6 per 1,000 births registered, 37·2 below that of last year.

The causes of death amongst infants were as follows:—

Measles	1
Enteritis	1
Tubercular Diseases	1
Other causes	4

The ages at which they died were:—2 under 1 week, 1 under 3 weeks, 1 under 3 months, 1 under 4 months, 1 under 9 months, 1 under 10 months.

The lessened infant mortality is a matter for congratulation.

Notification of Infectious Diseases.

Eighteen cases were notified during the year.

Whooping Cough.

A few cases occurred during the summer.

Phthisis.

Eight deaths occurred from this disease, an increase of 6 on those of last year. In all cases an endeavour is made to thoroughly disinfect the rooms in which the patient died.

Cancer.

Six deaths were registered as due to this disease, an increase of 4 on those of last year.

Small Pox.

The Town has been free of this disease, but two notices were received from the Medical Officer of Health, Southampton, notifying the fact that a passenger had been on board a vessel on which the disease had occurred. Also a communication from the Chief Constable, Salisbury, that a man had proceeded here who had stayed at a lodging house from which a case had been removed. It was found that the man had stayed for one night at the lodging house. I at once visited this house and instructed the caretaker to inform me of any illness that might occur. At the end of twelve days I again visited and was able to assure myself none of those living there were infected. I also wrote to the Medical Officer of Health, Winchester, acquainting him that the man had proceeded to his Town.

Influenza.

A few cases occurred, but were not a severe type, only one death being registered as occurring from this disease.

Measles. An extensive epidemic of this disease commenced in July The first case occurred in an infant school, and the infection could be traced to a child who had visited Longparish, where the disease had been prevalent. The younger school children were those chiefly attacked. The epidemic was of a mild type. The 6 deaths which ensued were due to lung complications.

Diphtheria. Eight cases of diphtheria were notified ; in neither case was I enabled to trace its origin.

Scarlet Fever. Seven cases of this disease were notified, five houses in all being infected.

Erysipelas. Two cases of this disease were notified.

Puerperal Fever. One case occurred ; no source of direct infection could be traced, but the drains of the house were found to be defective.

In all cases of infection the unaffected children were excluded from school and the houses very carefully disinfected at the termination of the illness.

Isolation Hospital. Four cases have been treated in this institution.

Water Supply. Has been of excellent quality and sufficient for all purposes throughout the year.

Very necessary extension of the mains have been made in the Old Winton Road, Millway Road, and Alexandra Road.

Houses in the higher part of the Town have been recommended to put in cisterns to ensure a constant supply of water, and to keep these filled increased pumping has been undertaken at the Waterworks.

A well at Batchelor's Barn was found polluted, and notice was served for it to be properly cleaned out.

Schools Closed. The following Schools have been closed in consequence of measles :—

Charlton.
Gale's Infant School.
British Infant School.
National Infant School.

Sewerage and Drainage. The system is still working satisfactorily ; the amount dealt with is about the same as last year. This corresponds roughly with the amount of water pumped at your Waterworks.

Considerable amount of effluvia arises from these Works especially on damp days, when the atmosphere is heavily charged with moisture. To try and lessen this, a ventilating shaft is to be put up in the Septic Tank. The cleansing of the Filter Beds should also help.

A new Sewer has been laid in the High Street, which has enabled owners of property to connect their house drains with the main system. It has already proved a great benefit to the health of the inhabitants in that part.

The Drain in the Black Swan Yard is in an unsatisfactory condition, and I would strongly recommend its being relaid.

With the extension of the Sewers in London Street, Old Winton Road, and Millway Road, the system of Drainage is now within practicable reach of all houses in the Town of Andover.

Filter Beds. The efficiency of these has been greatly improved by the washing and the replacing of the filtering material.

Baths. Were again open to the public on Saturdays from June to the end of September. On each occasion that I visited, they were scrupulously clean and in excellent order.

House Accommodation. A good deal of building is still in progress, and the accommodation has not been so limited as in the last few years, though cheaper rented cottages are still wanted.

Three houses were closed as being unfit for human habitation.

An inspection of cottages resulted in 15 being cleaned and repaired.

Town River. It is very gratifying to learn from your Inspector's report that the appearance of the River continues to improve, and that the bed is resuming its normal aspect. The Town River is no longer a receptacle for house-sewage, all drains having now been directed into the sewers.

Factory Act. The Workshops and Laundries have been inspected, attention being given to light, heating, ventilation, construction, and condition of floors, lime washing, painting, lavatory accommodation, and cubic capacity of the workshops.

Slaughter Houses.

These have been inspected and found in a satisfactory condition.

Dairies and Cowsheds.

I have paid special attention to these during the year, and have visited every one within your District.

The ventilation, in most cases, has been satisfactory, this being by windows, doors, shutters, ventilators in the roof, and air bricks. All woodwork was either lime-washed or painted.

The floors and stalls have generally been clean, though the provisions for flushing them could be improved upon.

The pails and other receptacles for the milk are carefully cleaned. The milkers ought to wash their hands carefully before milking, and they should wear garments of a washable material.

The cows were in good condition, in most cases being let out in the fields during the day, and in some cases they are allowed to stay out all night. The cows are seldom groomed, this only being done when they are very dirty. The udders are not always washed before milking.

The water supply to all the cowsheds was satisfactory.

Legal Proceedings.

On the representation of 11 inhabitants in the neighbourhood, legal proceedings were taken against the owner of a Fried Fish Shop for conducting an offensive trade. The summons was dismissed on the ground that he had used every available means to prevent any nuisance.

Proceedings were also taken against an owner of property to compel him to carry out the draining of his houses to the satisfaction of your authority. In this case an order was obtained.

Midwives Act.

This Act came into force in April, and in accordance with your instructions I visited every Midwife who had given notice of her intention to practice.

I found all their homes clean and in good order.

They themselves seem to understand the necessity of great cleanliness in their work, and wear dresses of washable material, also washing their hands before attending their patients.

None of them have obtained an examination certificate.

Only one possess all the appliances required by the Midwives Board in the rules that they issue. It would be useless for the others to obtain them as they have no knowledge of their use, and do not undertake any special treatment unless it is ordered by a medical man.

This Act will eventually prove of the greatest benefit by ensuring that women are attended at their confinements by those who have been properly trained and who have passed an examination proving their ability to undertake the responsible work.

Inspection of Meat.

Frequent inspections of meat exposed for sale have been made.

Inspector's Report.

I attach a most carefully-prepared report from your Inspector.

I have to again acknowledge the great assistance he has rendered me during the year.

I am, Gentlemen, your obedient Servant,

ERNEST A. FARR,

Medical Officer of Health.

Town Hall, Andover,

8th February, 1906.

To

E. A. Farr, Esq., Medical Officer of Health, Andover.

Dear Sir,

I have to present the following summary of Inspector of Nuisance's work within the Borough for the year ended 31st December, 1905 :—

Formal inspection of premises	130
Old drains examined...	52
Ditto relaid, amended, trapped or ventilated	44

Closets examined and renewed, repaired or flushed ...	55
Cesspools abolished	17
Houses disinfected after illness therein	13
Ditto closed (voluntary) as unfit for habitation	3
Ditto cleansed and repaired	15
Nuisances from animals abated	1
Offensive accumulations removed	8
Slaughterhouses under inspection	5
Lodging-houses ditto	1
Public baths ditto	1

Scavenging.

The use of the Tub Closet removal van has been discontinued, the "tub" being practically superseded by the Water Closet system in the Town. Outside the use of the pail Earth Closet is encouraged.

The weekly scavenging of house-refuse and ashes and its destruction by fire has been steadily performed throughout the year.

A greatly-reduced number of cesspools (47 only) has been cleansed by the Council's staff, for nominal fees, during the year, and many of these have been cleansed finally, for the purpose of abolition, where sewerage has been rendered available.

Sewerage.

The sewer in Millway Road has been extended, and in High Street, London Street, and Old Winton Road most important extensions have been made during the year, out of the last Loan sanctioned by the Local Government Board, with the result that means of sewerage and drainage have now been placed within reach of every group of houses in the Town.

The general Sewerage system is working satisfactorily.

The River has once more been dredged to cleanse it of sewage mud, and its appearance continues to improve. Latterly the improvement has been most apparent in the upper portion of the river near Cricklade and the Tan-yard.

The means of Sewer-flushing has been improved, with perceptible good results.

All new house drains have been examined, tested and approved before being covered in.

Sewage Disposal.

The Septic Tank continues to perform its digestive work satisfactorily. There is now no difficulty with the periodical removal of organic sludge, but a considerable quantity of mineral deposit (chalk and sand) will shortly require to be shovelled from the tank floor by manual labour, being irremovable in any other way. Its presence is only objectionable as diminishing the available tank capacity.

The clinker forming the Bacteria Beds is being washed and restored to the beds.

New Buildings

Plans for 50 new buildings have been approved by the Town Council during the year 1905, as compared with 48 in the year 1904 and 38 in the year 1902.

Water Supply.

The Town Water Mains have been tapped for 59 new services during the year. (In some instances a single tapping or "communication-pipe" serves a group of houses belonging to the same owner.)

Extensions of Water-main have been made during the year along the Old Winton Road, Millway Road, Osborne Road, and Alexandra Road.

Infectious Disease and Isolation.

I have recorded 11 cases of very mild diptheritic disorder and scarlatina during the year: of which 4 have been isolated successfully in the Borough Isolation Hospital.

Legal Proceedings.

During 1905 eight Statutory Notices have been issued. Further legal proceedings have been necessary in only one instance.

I have the honour to be, Sir, yours obediently,

R. WALTER KNAPP,

Certificated Inspector of Nuisances.